



IDAHO

KIDS IN ACTION



VOLUME 2, ISSUE 1

JANUARY 2008

Note from the Director

Several of our sub-grantees have received publicity on their service learning stories that have brought national and local attention. Please let me know when you have a media-worthy story so I can pass them on. Publicizing service learning can open up valuable learning opportunities. Publicizing service learning doesn't just take place at the conclusion of a project, as many moments throughout the process of service learning provide great stories. A student article in a school newsletter may get other kids wanting to join in with this exciting activity. Student fliers posted in the hall about an upcoming field trip to a watershed may inspire other teachers to become involved. A news story in a local paper informs the public about the good things that are happening within the school walls, and about the positive impact students are having in the community.

This newsletter is one of many vehicles to help share your service learning successes throughout the state of Idaho and beyond. Where else can you tell your service learning story? One area is to post your story on the Internet through not only our state website, but national service learning organizations as well. Publicize your service learning program by having students give presentations to other students, community groups, school boards, or local television stations. Newspapers are always looking for great stories—have your students write articles for your local newspaper. Your service learning story can be a source of youth and community pride.

Middleton High School, Middleton, ID Community Christmas Drive

For the past eighteen years, Middleton High School Leadership has sponsored a community Christmas drive. This program is completely run by a hand-picked group of students. This year we provided Christmas for over thirty families in the Middleton area.

We did many different things in order to improve the Christmas drive. Every year each family has a month's worth of nonperishable food provided to them. This year, we decided to learn about nutrition, and we added fresh fruits, vegetables, eggs, hamburger, turkey, and bread to the list. This provided a healthier food selection for the families.

Each family was given two recipe books. One was a fun kids cookbook, and the other was a Christmas Dinner Recipe Book. We made the Christmas dinner books, and all the ingredients and recipes for Christmas dinner were provided.

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Middleton High Students wrapping presents

HIGHLANDS ELEMENTARY

Gayl Loutzenheiser, Service Learning Coordinator

The following is an article on service learning at Boise's Highlands Elementary that appeared in the January 2008 issue of *Family Circle*. ANSER Charter School is also mentioned as a consultant. What a way to get Boise on the map!

good works

EVERYDAY WAYS WE CAN ALL MAKE A DIFFERENCE. BY STEPHANIE EMMA PFEFFER



NAME GAYL LOUTZENHEISER
AGE 48
CAUSE KIDS FOR KIDS
HOMETOWN BOISE, ID
FAMILY HUSBAND, TOM;
KIDS: JENNIE, 20; MEGAN, 11;
JACKIE, 10; KELLY, 8

Her inspiration With two daughters at Highlands Elementary School in 2004, Gayl was frequently asked to donate money to various causes. "I wanted to lend support, but I also believed that kids could become better citizens by doing more than fundraising," she says.

Taking action With a few other parents, Gayl consulted a charter school in the area that specialized in service learning

Positive growth Today Gayl is one of two volunteer service learning coordinators of the Highlands Elementary-based program Kids for Kids.

(The projects usually assist young people but can extend to adults in need as well.) With the help of parents and other volunteers, 12

classes, from all grades, participate in about 18 projects annually, including collecting canned goods for food pantries, painting murals at homeless shelters and assisting families in emergency housing facilities.

Empowering students "The kids hand-pick issues they care about,

research them and take action," says Gayl, who facilitates partnerships with local groups. The Salvation Army, for example, gives lectures on homelessness and then directs the students' efforts.

Proud moment A group of fifth-graders brought gently used books and toys to a day care center for disadvantaged children and played with the children all morning. "The preschoolers were so thrilled to have 10-year-old companions that some were in tears when we left," remembers Gayl. "Our students said they felt like heroes for having made a difference in the life of another child—if only for a day."

Small hurdle "Not every organization is receptive to the efforts of 32 children—it takes a while for people to open their minds and realize how much kids can do," Gayl says. "But kids tackle tasks quickly and with lots of energy!"

"We give students a voice—and the choice—to help improve their communities."



TO LEARN MORE ABOUT INTEGRATING EDUCATION AND CIVIC RESPONSIBILITY, GO TO THELEAGUE.ORG OR VISIT SERVICELEARNING.ORG.

and explored ways to integrate volunteerism into their kids' curriculum.

First project For a field trip of a different sort, 30 fifth-graders served lunch at a soup kitchen. They doled out portions, collected trays and helped clean up tables. Afterward the kids reflected on their experiences through written projects or presentations. "It was amazing to see the interaction between our students and the homeless population," says Gayl. "The kids realized that homeless families were no different from their own."



Know someone who's making a change in your community?
Send details along with a photo to goodworks@familycircle.com.

Middleton High School

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The Christmas drive is made possible because of the support of a whole community. The entire Middleton High School student body is given the opportunity to help a family each year. Local churches help by also taking on a family. Helping a family includes: gathering the food list, and buying clothes and presents for the children.

Once we gather names of families in need, we contact them and tell them more about the Christmas drive. If they are interested, we set up an interview. All families go through the interviewing process. Two Leadership students will go to each families home and find out more about their family and circumstances. Once all the interviews are complete, we look at all the families and choose who we are going to be able to accept.

All of the families are contacted and informed of the decisions. Families who are accepted are asked for clothing sizes and also for toy/present ideas. Through all of this contact with families, we have really learned how to use good communication skills.

Once we collected all the food, clothing, and presents we called and set up delivery times on delivery day (D-Day). We set up in teams and each took a list of families. We then went to their homes and delivered their Christmas.

One mother sent back a thank you note and one line said, "My children now have shoes..." We are all so glad that we are given the opportunity to help those in need in our community. It is an experience that has touched each one of our hearts. We are all truly grateful for what we have been given. We have also learned that the spirit of service is what brings true happiness.

Article written by Brittany Coombs
Middleton High School



Middleton Youth Leadership Team

CONGRATULATIONS!

Wendell Middle School is the winner of the "Name the Newsletter" contest. We are highlighting the name in this first newsletter for 2008—**KIDS IN ACTION**

Important Dates to Remember

January 15, 2008 - First Progress Report Due

February 15, 2008—Request for Proposals Released for 2008—2009

February 27-29, 2008 - Serve Idaho Conference - Post Falls, ID.

March 15, 2008—RFP Application Closing Dates

April 9-12, 2008—19th Annual National Service-Learning Conference—Minneapolis, MN.

April 15, 2008—Notification of Grant Awards



Boise Youth Workshop



State Department of
Education

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P.O. Box 83720
Boise, ID 83720-0027
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**For more information
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Learn and Serve Idaho provides young people with opportunities to serve Idaho by connecting community service with academic learning, personal growth, and civic responsibility. Grantees create new service learning programs, replicate existing models, and train staff, faculty, adult volunteers, and students in service learning. Participants are K-12, school-age youth.

Eligible applicants for Learn & Serve grants are Idaho K-12 schools of any grade span. Grantee schools must be committed to service learning as a teaching/learning strategy and as an integral component of education.

The vision of Learn and Serve Idaho is to assist schools in implementing site-based programs of service learning through policy, practice, and capacity building. Learn and Serve Idaho provides financial and technical assistance to schools as they develop and implement policies and supportive structures at all levels, while reducing barriers to the institutionalization of service learning.

Student's Corner

Service learning is a group of people who use teamwork to learn new things and help their community. I have learned to be brave and speak up in front of other people. I have learned that we can help other people and work together to make things better in our school and community. I want to be a teacher and service learning has helped me learn how to teach others and help them.

Marisela Diaz

8th grader—Wendell Middle School

I would define service learning as an organized way to help your school and community. The learning part is in our projects and we learn the usual school subjects, like math and science, but in a fun way. You also learn skills such as working together with others and how to help others in your school and community.

Kristina Peck

8th grader -Wendell Middle School

Service learning is a way for kids to help their school and their community while learning school subjects. I have learned from my experiences that helping others is important. You have to be creative, but when different people come together great ideas happen. Working with others helps us learn how to work together to accomplish goals even though we are different from each other. Service learning has taught me that helping others is important.

Monica Alvarez

8th grader—Wendell Middle School



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**LEARN AND SERVE SUB-
GRANT PROGRAM**

CURRENT SUBGRANTEES

2007-2008

- ◇ **The Alameda Center**— Pocatello, ID
- ◇ **ANSER Charter School**- Boise, ID
- ◇ **Burton Elementary**- Rexburg, ID
- ◇ **Highlands Elementary**- Boise, ID
- ◇ **Lakeland High School**- Rathdrum, ID
- ◇ **Lapwai Elementary**- Lapwai, ID
- ◇ **Middleton High School**-Middleton, ID
- ◇ **Mullan Trail Elementary**-
Post Falls, ID
- ◇ **Orofino Jr. & Sr. High School**-
Orofino, ID
- ◇ **Parma Learning Center**- Parma, ID
- ◇ **Sorensen Magnet School of the
Arts & Humanities**—Coeur d'Alene, ID